

REMARKS

By this Reply, Applicant has amended claims 7-10. No new matter has been added by this Reply. Claims 7-10 remain pending in this application.

Applicant maintains the position that claims 7-10, as presented previously, are patentably distinguishable from the prior art relied on in the claim rejections included in the Office Action. Applicant reserves the right to re-present the subject matter recited in claims 7-10, as previously presented, in this or a related application.

In the Office Action mailed June 19, 2009 ("Office Action"), the previous rejection of claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059617 to Terakado et al. ("Terakado") was maintained, and claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,589,947 to Sato et al. ("Sato"). Amended independent claims 7, 9, and 10 are the only independent claims included in the claim rejections under Section 102(b), and Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of independent claims 7, 9, and 10 under Section 102(b) based on Terakado and Sato at least because Terakado and Sato fail to disclose all of the subject matter recited in each of amended independent claims 7, 9, and 10.

I. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based on Terakado

A. Amended Independent Claim 7

Amended independent claim 7 recites, in pertinent part,

[a] control apparatus configured to:

...
acquire first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation

screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; and
display the first operation screen and the second operation screen,
wherein the second information processing apparatus is controlled, via the first information processing apparatus, based on . . . registered address information.

Terakado fails to disclose at least this recited subject matter.

Terakado discloses a data server 100 that is connected to a home server 110 via a network. Terakado at paragraph [0039]. Home server 110 is capable of communicating with a remote control 120. Id. Home server 110 is also connected to a plurality of home appliances 130. Id. Remote control 120 includes a display screen that can also be used as a touch-panel and can be linked to the home appliances 130. Id. Remote control 120 can receive and update functions for remotely controlling each of the home appliances 130 from home server 110. Id. at paragraph [0048]. Furthermore, remote control 120 can instruct home appliances 130 to update new function data related to the home appliance from home server 110. Id. at paragraph [0050]. Thus, remote control 120 can update itself with new function data for controlling home appliances 130, by downloading such new function data from home server 110. Id. at paragraph [0052]. Similarly, remote control 120 can command each of home appliances 130 to update itself with new function data for controlling home appliances 130 by downloading such new function data from home server 110. Id. Importantly, remote control 120 is linked to each of home appliances 130 that it is configured to control. Id. at paragraph [0039].

The Office Action implicitly asserts that the remote control of Terakado can control one or more of the home appliances 130 through home server 110 in an apparent effort to assert that Terakado anticipates Applicant's recitation of "[a] second information processing apparatus [that] is controlled, via the first information processing apparatus" Office Action at 2-3. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion.

Although remote control 120 of Terakado is in communication with both home server 110 and home appliances 130, Terakado is silent with respect to the remote control's ability to control home appliances 130 *via the home server 110*. In fact, Terakado repeatedly discloses a control link between remote control 120 and home appliances 130, without disclosure of such link being *through* the home server 110. See, e.g., Terakado at paragraphs [0039], [0041], [0042], [0046], among others. Indeed, Terakado is altogether silent with regard to remote control 120 controlling home appliances 130 *via the home server 110*.

Because Terakado fails to disclose at least, "[a] second information processing apparatus [that] is controlled, via the first information processing apparatus . . . ," as recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 7, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claim 7 based on Terakado is improper and should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claim 8 depends from amended independent claim 7 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 7 and 8 based on Terakado.

B. Amended Independent Claims 9 and 10

Amended independent claims 9 and 10 each recite, in pertinent part, a control method comprising:

requesting, via [a] remote control apparatus from the first information processing apparatus, address information of a second information processing apparatus connected to the first information processing apparatus via a network;
. . .; and
controlling, via the remote control apparatus, the second information processing apparatus via the first information processing apparatus based on . . . registered address information.

As outlined above with respect to amended independent claim 7, Terakado fails to disclose at least, "controlling, via [a] remote control apparatus, [a] second information processing apparatus via [a] first information processing apparatus," as recited in each of Applicant's amended independent claims 9 and 10. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to independent claims 9 and 10 based on Terakado is improper and should be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based on Sato

A. Amended Independent Claim 7

Amended independent claim 7 recites, in pertinent part,

[a] control apparatus configured to:

. . .
acquire first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; and
display the first operation screen and the second operation screen,

wherein the second information processing apparatus is controlled, via the first information processing apparatus, based on . . . registered address information.

Sato fails to disclose at least this recited subject matter.

Sato discloses a karaoke system having a plurality of terminal systems R1, R2 and a "center system" 1 that is connected to the plurality of terminal systems R1, R2. Sato at Abstract and Fig. 2. Center system 1 is configured to receive requests for pieces of music from terminal systems R1, R2, generate signals of requested pieces of music and related video images, and transmit the signals to terminal systems R1, R2. Id. at 4: 62-67. The musical requests are input by a user via remote controller 135. Sato at 1: 43-49.

The Office Action implicitly asserts in an unsupported manner, that the remote controller 135 of Sato can "acquire first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; and display the first operation screen and the second operation screen," as recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 7. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion.

Although a user can input musical selections into remote controller 135, which are transmitted to the center system 1 (via a CCTV converter of remote system R1, R2) and cause center system 1 to respond by uploading the musical selection to the remote system R1, R2, Sato does not disclose that remote controller 135 is configured to "acquire first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen

information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus . . . ,” as recited in Applicant’s amended independent claim 7. In fact, Sato is altogether silent with respect to remote controller 135’s ability to display operation screen information associated with any of remote system R1, R2, or center system 1, and does not render obvious such subject matter.

Because Sato fails to disclose, at least, “a control apparatus, configured to . . . acquire first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; and display the first operation screen and the second operation screen,” as recited in Applicant’s amended independent claim 7, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claim 7 based on Sato is improper and should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claim 8 depends from amended independent claim 7 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 7 and 8 based on Sato.

B. Amended Independent Claims 9 and 10

Amended independent claims 9 and 10 each recite, in pertinent part, a control method comprising:

acquiring first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; [and]

displaying the first operation screen and the second operation screen; . . .

As outlined above with respect to amended independent claim 7, Sato fails to disclose, at least, "acquiring first operation screen information for displaying a first operation screen corresponding to [a] first information processing apparatus and second operation screen information for displaying a second operation screen corresponding to [a] second information processing apparatus; [and] displaying the first operation screen and the second operation screen," as recited in each of Applicant's amended independent claims 9 and 10. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 9 and 10 based on Sato is improper and should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and timely allowance of pending claims 7-10.

The Office Action contains characterizations and assertions regarding the claims and the cited art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant respectfully declines to automatically subscribe to any characterizations or assertions included in the Office Action.


If the Examiner believes that a conversation might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Reply and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 21, 2009

By: 

Brad C. Rametta
Reg. No. 54,387
(404) 653-6552